

19



JESUS AND LAZARUS

Power to Bring New Life

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture John 11: 1 – 44

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Mary and Martha asked Jesus to come and help them, as their brother was very sick.
- Jesus cared for his friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha. He cares for each of us too.
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead so that people would believe that he was God's Son, the Forever King, who was sent to bring new life to the world.
- Jesus taught that even though people die, whoever believes in him will live. (That is, they will have eternal life)
- Jesus has the power to give life and demonstrated his power over death when he raised Lazarus from the dead.

Memory Verse Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25 - NIV)

ACNA

Catechism

Connection

The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

Q 49 Who is Jesus Christ? ...Son of God

Q 50 What does "Jesus" mean? ..."God saves" and God has come to save us from the power of sin and death

Q 69 & 70 What does Jesus do for you and how does he affect your life today? ...He sees my needs and hears my prayers. I can rely on Jesus always to be present with me.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Memory Verse: (Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

Lesson props:

- Mat for Lazarus to lie on
- Basin of water and two cloths (one cloth for Mary and the other for Martha)
- Roll of Paper towel and scotch tape (to wrap up Lazarus)
- Create a cave to resemble the tomb, and a piece of paper or card shaped as a rock to cover the opening of the tomb
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes:

- Jesus
- Lazarus, lying on the mat looking very sick
- Mary and Martha

Memory Verse: (Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in the poster? (Jesus, tomb, rock rolled away, a man coming out of the tomb.)

I wonder who the man is coming out of the tomb.

I wonder why he is coming out of the tomb.

Let's hear more in our story....



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the Gospel of John, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and all the words in the Bible are true.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster.*

STORY:

TEACHER: There was a man name Lazarus, who had two sisters. The sisters were called Mary and Martha. Jesus was friends with Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

One day – something very sad happened. Lazarus became very sick.

ACTION: *Lazarus is lying on a mat. Mary and Martha have a basin of water and a cloth, and are wiping Lazarus' forehead.*

TEACHER: Mary and Martha, go and ask someone to tell Jesus that Lazarus is sick.

ACTION: *Mary and Martha ask somebody to run to Jesus and tell him that Lazarus is very sick.*

TEACHER: What do you think Jesus did?

He did something really surprising. Jesus did not go to visit Lazarus. Instead, he stayed where he was for two more days. You see, Jesus knew that God was going to do an amazing miracle. Jesus was going to show the people that God had power over death.

When Lazarus had died, Jesus clearly told his disciples, "Lazarus is dead."

ACTION: *Show Mary and Martha wrapping Lazarus in the paper towel. They place Lazarus in a tomb and put a rock over the tomb.*

TEACHER: Once Lazarus was dead and buried, Jesus went to be with Mary and Martha.

It was now 4 days later. Martha came running to Jesus when she saw Him. Let's hear what they have to say.....

MARTHA: (Crying) Oh Jesus...."if you had been here, my brother would not have died!"

JESUS: Martha, do not be upset. Your brother will rise again.... "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will never die."

Martha, do you believe me?

MARTHA: Yes, Jesus. I do believe.

TEACHER: You see, Martha did believe that Jesus was God's Son, the Forever King.

Then Martha's sister Mary came to see Jesus. Mary was crying.

JESUS: Come Mary and Martha – let us go to the tomb.

ACTION: *Jesus, Mary and Martha walk to the tomb.*

TEACHER: At that point, the Bible tells us that Jesus also cried.

Jesus could hear people saying, "If Jesus had come earlier, he could have healed Lazarus, so he would not have died."

The people did not know that Jesus was going to do something really surprising to show them that he was God's Son. Yes, Jesus was going to show the people that he could rescue the people from their sin and from death.

Then Jesus said,

JESUS: Open the tomb!

TEACHER: Oh my – that is not what the people were thinking that Jesus would ask them to do.

Then Jesus stepped forward and said,

JESUS: "Father, I thank you that you have heard me....I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me."

TEACHER: Then, Jesus in a loud voice shouted....

JESUS: "Lazarus, come out!!"

TEACHER: Look everyone – look at Lazarus! (*Point toward the tomb.*)

ACTION: *Lazarus gets up and starts to walk out of the tomb.*

TEACHER: It is amazing....God answered Jesus' prayer!!

Lazarus came out of the tomb. Can you believe it – a man who was dead for 4 days is now alive again!

What would you do if you saw a person who was dead for 4 days come out of a tomb dressed in white cloths?

Because Jesus showed that God had power to bring Lazarus back to life, many people believed in Jesus.

The people were thinking that Jesus was the One who would rescue God's people. He is the One who rules over death.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What do we learn about Jesus in this story?** (He brought a dead man back to life. He raised the dead. He taught that he was truly the Son of God and that God his Father gave him power over death and to give life. He loved his friends. He cried with his friends. Jesus cared about their faith and their life.)
- **How does this story help us to live today?** (Jesus cares about our faith and loves us, just as he did for his friends, Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Jesus is the Son of God who has power to give life. He said that he is the resurrection and the life. We can trust that he has power over our lives too, now and forever. All the wonderful things in our life are from him and whenever we are in a bad situation, we can call on God to help us.)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Just like Martha and Mary, we need to call out to Jesus in all of our difficult or sad times because Jesus has power over everything, even life and death.

Can you think of a time when Jesus has comforted you, or given you hope? Perhaps when you lost something or someone special to you.

We can talk to Jesus right now because he cares and has the power and love to help us and make things right.

Lead the children in a time of prayer.

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



Mary and Martha tending to the sick Lazarus

Jesus said to her,
"I am the
resurrection and the
life. He who
believes in me will
live, even though he
dies."

(John 11:25)